(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Cotton imports are under Open General Licence (OGL) with zero import duty. Import is made either under the Advance Licensing Scheme or by 100% EDU's or by textile mills to meet specific quality requirements depending on relative price, and demand and supply position.

Closure of Laxmi Vishnu Mill of Sholapur, Maharashtra

2696. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Laxmi Vishnu Mill at Sholapur (Maharashtra) will be closed down soon;

(b) if so, the number of workers likely to be disturbed; and

(c) the effort Government propose to take to prevent closure of this mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The Laxmi Vishnu Mill with 4510 workers at Sholapur (Maharashtra) is registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as 'Sick'. BIFR has been set up by the Government to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills. BIFR has recommended winding up of the Laxmi Vishnu Mill to the High Court of Maharashtra.

Export of Cotton Yarn

2697. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not adopting a policy of exporting cotton yarn instead of raw cotton;

(b) whether Goverment are considering exclusion of the export of open-end yarn of counts up to 105 from internal cieling; and

(c) the steps Government intend to deal with the problem of cotton contamination?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Although the general policy is to promote the exoports of value added items, including cotton yarn, the export of cotton is also allowed in order to protect the interests of cotton growers. Quotas for export of cotton are announced by Government only after considering all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, domestic demand, likely surplus, price trends etc. While allowing export of cotton, Government endeavours to balance the interests of the cotton growers, on the one hand, and, on the other, the consuming sectors, particularly the handloom weavers in the decentralised sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The contaminations in Indian cotton is essentially the result of factors related to the treatment of cotton in the ginning factories. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been encouraging the use of modern ginning & pressing techniques through a price incentive scheme.

Amendment of Textiles (Development and Regulation) order, 1993

2698. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Textile processing industry will now be regulated under the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and whether Government propose to amend the above order; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With the objective of Maintaining standards of quality, to meet environmental parameters, etc. the